

Message Text

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ACTION AF-01

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O 16140Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

O RUEHFO/USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIAE

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USINFO FOR IAA, IOR/M; IPS, IBS

E.O. 11652: NJXA

TAGS: NONE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION ON NASA STATION CLOSURE

1. THE LOCAL

PRESS HAS NOT COMMENTED ON THE 200 ARMY TROOPS WHICH OCCUPIED THE NASA SATION LAS FRIDAY. THE SAME DAS HE CHARGE AND SEVERAL NASA OFFICIALS AERE FILMED BY TV CANERAMEN AS THEY APPROACHED HE TAI N AND ALKED WITH ONE OF THE ARMY MEN SANDING GUARD. HE FILM S OWED HEM BEINR TURNED AWAY AND EACINR HE SAION. THIS WAS SHOWN ON SUNDAS NIGHT'S TV NEWS PROGRAM.

A. (OTHER PRESS REACTIONS OF JULY 15:

A. SAHY, AN INDEPENDENT PAPER STATED UNDER THE HEADLINE, "WHAT IS THE REAL PURPOSE OF THE AMERICANS," IT IS LONG KNOWN HA THE AMERICANS USED TO DEHACE LIKE A CONQUERING COUNTRY; AS A PROOF, (THE PRESENT SITUATION; TEN YEARS' RENT UNPAID*

B. IMONGO VAO VAO (AKFM); KREFERRING TO A WASHINGTON NEWS ITEM BROADCAST BY RADIO BERLIN, STATED THAT THE U.S. OFFICIALLY
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CLOSING THE STATION WAS THEREFORE THE AMERICAN ANSWER TO
RATSIRAKA'S STATEMENT OF JULY 11 (RATSIRAKA ANN
UNCED THA
HE WOU
D C
OSE HE STATION IF THE AMERICANS DID NOT PAY
10 MILLION DOLLARS BY JULY 14).

C. MARESAKA (INDEPENDENT) ASKED QUESTIONS SUCH AS "WHAT ARE
CONTENTS OF AGREEMENTS" AND MADE NO ANTI-U.S. STATEMENTS.

3. JULY 16 REACTIONS INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING:

A. IMONGO VAOVAO (AKFM) - THIS IS A FLAT DENIAL OF PUBLICITY
BY CERTAIN PEOPLE ABOUT AMERICAN FRIENDLINESS AND HELPFULNESS.
THIS SITUATION SHOWS THAT MAJOR POWERS LIKE THE U.S. DO NOT
CARE MUCH ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES' INDEPENDENCE AND SOVEREIGNTY.

B. HIASYRE (PRO-AKFM) - PAPER EXPRESSES HIS RELIEF BECAUSE
AT LAST MADAGASCAR IS ABLE TO GET RID OF THIS STATION WHICH
WAS A PERMANENTLY IMPENDING DANGER TO THE COUNTRY AND OTHERS
IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AREA. THE PAPER IS ALSO SATISFIED WITH
THE FACT THAT ALL FOREIGN BASES IN THE COUNTRY ARE NOW REMOVED,
WHICH IS IN CON-
FORMITY WITH THE NEUTRALIST POSITION OF MADAGAS-
CAR IN ITS INTERNATIONAL POLICS. BESIDES THE
SMALLEST PORTION
OF THE MALAGASY LAND SHOULD BE OCCUPIED BY FOREIGN
REIGNERS OUTSIDE
THE LANDS OCCUPIED BY EMBASSIES.

C. MARINA VAOVAO (INDEPENDENT): AGREES RATSIRAKA'S
DECISION TO CLOSE NASA GIVEN THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE: IT IS OBVIOUS
THE AMERICANS DID NOT WANT TO PAY PURPOSELY SINCE THEY COULD
AFFORD IT.
HULBERT

NOTE: MESSAGE AS RECEIVED.

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